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## MAcc Student Receives AICPA Medal of Inspiration

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## **MAcc Student Receives AICPA Medal of Inspiration - June 2014**

We recently received notification that our own Lucien Butler has been selected as this year's National Medal of Inspiration Award winner. This award is co-sponsored by the Beta Alpha Psi organization and the AICPA with a \$5,000 cash award funded by the AICPA with only one annual recipient. For those of you less acquainted with Lucien, here is why he was selected:

Lucien is a Purple-Heart veteran of the war in Afghanistan. He was blown up four times in missions to clear routes of explosive devices to protect American troops and civilians traveling the roadways. He sustained significant injuries and yet returned to action. During the time that he was in the military, he managed his life and resources well enough to be able to buy a plane and has obtained a commercial pilot license.

Lucien experienced extreme hardship as a child and young adult. His parents did not allow him to attend school until forced to do so by a court order when he was a teenager. Obviously coming from behind his classmates in reading, writing, and every academic skill, he recognized that education was his path out of the oppression he had experienced to that point. He left home, completed his education, served a two year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, joined the National Guard, and then came to Utah State University.

War heroes are inspiring, and many young men who have difficulties in their youth enter the military for lack of better opportunities. But few young men or women experience extreme hardship in their early life, become military heroes AND go on to succeed with a GPA of 3.85 in a rigorous accounting program like ours at Utah State University.

Lucien has done those things. That is why he won. What the committee does not know, but will find out when they meet him in person, is that he is also one of the most pleasant, professional, service minded individuals that I have known. Congratulations to Lucien and thanks to all of you who have contributed to his success.